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Your Girl Scout just earned the Digital Leadership badge!

How cool is that today's Girl Scouts get to grow up in an age where the entire world is at their fingertips? Learning how to navigate the internet in a safe way, how to use the digital world for good, and how to be a leader in their digital communities were the focuses of our badge activities today.

Here's a little more about what we covered:

- What a digital community is and what communities your Girl Scout(s) are already a part of
- The difference between public and private information online
- Overall online safety dos and don'ts
- Balancing offline and online time in a healthy way
- What digital content is, how to create it, and how to use it in a positive way

Help your Girl Scout(s) lead at home...

Ask them to explain to you and the rest of the family about the difference between public and private information online. Work together to write down a list of information that's okay and not okay to share online. Some examples include: name, address, age, favorite sport, emoji, eye color, or passwords—but the sky's the limit!

Gather small paper plates, a popsicle stick, some tape, and markers and have each family member create their own yes and no themed emoji. Draw one that exists already or come up with your own interpretation. Once everyone is done, read the list and have everyone weigh in on whether that piece of information can be shared online.

Here are a few tips to keep your Girl Scout(s) safe online...

1. Create parameters for online use. Placing the computer in a family room and creating designated hours where you're available and physically present while they're online gives them time to explore while still being supervised.

2. Explain that they should never post private information in a public place or share that information with anyone they don't know.

3. Make time to talk with your Girl Scout(s) about what they're seeing online. It gives them a chance to talk about any images or videos they've seen that they may have questions or feelings about—a great chance to talk about both fun and serious topics!

4. Keep an eye on what apps and programs they're engaging with online. Most social media and online games require by law that a user be 13 or older, but it can be easy to fib about your age in order to gain access.